

the Gateway

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003



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News Briefs

Award winners

Congratulations to the annual award winners from the 469th Air Base Group, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, Det. 1 2nd Air Postal Squadron and the 485th Intelligence Squadron. The winners will compete at the Team Rhein-Main Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 25 at the Steigenberger Airport Hotel.

Airman category – **Airman 1st Class Samuel Sells**, 469th ABG Civil Engineer Flight; **Airman 1st Class Casey Jensen**, 726th AMS; **Senior Airman Jennifer Robbins**, Det. 1 2nd APS and **Airman 1st Class Jamyl Mahoney**, 485th IS.

NCO category – **Tech. Sgt. Brian McHugh**, 469th ABG Communications Flight; **Staff Sgt. Gillie Zamora**, 726th AMS; **Tech. Sgt. Elpidio Abaya Jr.**, Det. 1 2nd APS and **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Penberthy**, 485th IS.

Senior NCO category – **Senior Master Sgt. Trina Douglas**, 469th ABG Finance Office and **Master Sgt. Ricky Carns**, 726th AMS and **Master Sgt. Gregory Polson**, 485th IS.

CGO category – **Capt. Matthew Orlowsky**, 469th ABG Services Flight and **Capt. Eric Haler**, 726th AMS and **Capt. Tod Alber**, 485th IS.

FGO category – **Maj. Shawn Moore**, 469th ABG Civil Engineer Flight.

Civilian category I – **Jackie Muir**, 469th ABG Services Flight and **Angela Clementson**, 726th AMS.

Civilian category II – **Lee Tapia**, 469th ABG Finance Office and **Larry Jecklin**, 726th AMS.

Local National Civilian category I – **Sandra Zviger**, 726th AMS.

Local National Civilian category II – **Annette McKerrrell**, 726th AMS.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Lasky

Deployed within USAFE

Staff Sgt. Tim Crincic, deployed to Rhein-Main from the 435th Air Base Wing Security Forces Group at Ramstein, checks an M-16 prior to issuing it from the base armory. Sergeant Crincic is one of the several security forces members deployed from Ramstein, Spangdahlem and Vogelweh. The current rotation of deployed security forces members will be replaced by Airmen from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. and McConnell AFB, Kansas.

USAFE takes Combat Wingman to the next step

By Capt. Lisa Neidinger
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — USAFE's top leaders say the newest Command and Special Interest Program, Combat Wingman, launched successfully and is gaining altitude and airspeed throughout the command.

General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, commander, United States Air Forces in

Europe, and Chief Gary Coleman, USAFE Command Chief Master Sergeant, agree that while the program is off to a good start, future efforts will continue to revolutionize the program.

"Our Air Force family has many members," said General Foglesong. "Combat Wingman is our way to ensure we all are looking out for each other, from

— See *Wingman*, Page 6

Air Forces Europe 2020: Defining the future

By Maj. Carrie Omdal

USAFE Office of Transformation

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — To guide U.S. Air Forces in Europe in preparing for the future, Gen. Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, USAFE commander, created *Air Forces Europe 2020*.

“Our world is changing,” the general said. “As a command, we’re transforming to meet future challenges and increase our warfighting effectiveness. *Air Forces Europe 2020* provides the framework.”

The fundamental principles of *Air Forces Europe 2020* include: transforming doctrine, organization structure, basing and weapons systems to support U.S. and NATO strategic priorities; strengthening current, and forging new, alliances; maintaining air leadership in Europe and Africa; and sustaining agile and lethal expeditionary forces ready to respond decisively and defeat those that threaten peace and freedom.

“Every aspect of our transformation complements the initiatives by the Department of Defense, NATO, and the European Command,” said Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, USAFE Plans and Programs director.

“Our basing strategy, organization changes, theater security cooperation program and readiness initiatives are ensuring we can meet evolving threats and enhancing our international partnerships.”

To facilitate this successful transformation, the USAFE Office of Transformation is distributing the *Air Forces Europe 2020* DVD, brochure, and tri-fold to the wings and geographically separated units.

“Every Airman contributes to the success of our transformation,”

said Col. Mark Hinchman, Chief of the USAFE Office of Transformation. “As a command, we’re integrating these principles into our operational concepts, organizations, programs and processes to prepare us for the future. Supporting a synchronized strategy with EUCOM and the other components leverages our individual strengths and closes operational seams.”

It also helps us maintain our fighting edge, said General Foglesong.

“*Air Forces Europe 2020* keeps us postured and ready to support our nation and sustain the United States

Air Force as the most respected air and space force in the world,” he said.

For more information about *Air Forces Europe 2020*, visit <https://www.mil.usafe.af.mil/direct/cvt/home.htm>.



Looking back on history, USAFE celebrates 63rd birthday

By Capt. Krista Carlos

USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — As the oldest active major command in the Air Force, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe celebrated its 63rd birthday Jan. 19.

Throughout the years, USAFE Airmen and assets have played a significant role in securing peace and stability to the region.

“From the days of World War II, to Desert Storm and the Balkan operations to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, USAFE has played a vital role in providing for a free and stable Europe,” said Gen. Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, USAFE commander. “USAFE has a rich history of contributing to the success of every major military operation in theater since its activation.”

During WWII, USAFE forces conducted daylight bombing operations over continental Europe from bases in the United Kingdom, and later incorporated reconnaissance of enemy movements throughout occupied Europe.

In addition to combat and peacekeeping

operations, the command has conducted more than 160 humanitarian relief operations, ranging from the Berlin Airlift and relief in the Balkans to responding to natural disasters. At the same time, it served as the cornerstone of the NATO alliance and saved lives throughout Europe and the Middle East. Most recently, USAFE forces stepped up to provide aid to people from as far away as India with the tsunami relief effort.

In 1991, USAFE committed more than 15 percent of its personnel and 33 percent of its aircraft to support Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In the mid 1990s, USAFE became involved in the Balkans operations. From Operations Deny Flight to Shining Hope, the command helped bring opposing forces to the peace table while providing humanitarian relief to Kosovo Albanians.

While the command has changed over the years, its focus has remained constant.

“USAFE forces have always demonstrated the capability and flexibility to perform a variety of missions,” said Dr. John Sullivan, USAFE command historian. “Currently we’re facing the new threat, global terrorism. Throughout these 63 years,

organizational structures and doctrine may have changed, but the command’s mission and courage and resolve of its people have not.”

Today, as our military transforms to face a global threat in non-conventional warfare, USAFE has also adapted to face the challenge.

“Sept. 11, 2001 changed the world forever,” General Foglesong said. “USAFE has stepped up to the challenge by providing world-class support to the theater of operations. Today, our over 32,000 personnel and assets are the forward projection of American power in the European theater. We will continue to transform to meet mission requirements, and our expeditionary mentality will allow us to be flexible and responsive to the challenges that await us.”

“As we celebrate USAFE’s 63rd birthday, I would like to thank our dedicated professionals who have served, and continue to serve, in support of the mission,” said General Foglesong. “I’m proud of our legacy of success as the most respected and feared air and space force in the world, and I’m looking forward to our future achievements.”



New wheels

(Left) Airman 1st Class Anthony Bemis, deployed to Rhein-Main from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and Brad Stone, a Boeing employee, prepare pieces of a C-17 main landing gear assembly for installation Jan. 15. (Above) The main landing gear post of a C-17 broke downrange and was repaired when the aircraft returned to Rhein-Main.

Photos by 1st Lt. Uriah Orland

Commander recognizes wingmen

By Col. Brad Denison

469th Air Base Group commander

I am very excited with the efforts of the members of Team Rhein-Main to adopt "Combat Wingman" and make it a part of your daily lives.

This program is very important because it helps us take care of each other, especially with this being our final year.

I would like to highlight two wingmen who thought outside of the box and really went the extra mile to take care of their wingman.

When "Combat Wingman" was introduced, Michael Wage, 469th Air Base Group Director of Services, asked Capt. Matt Orlowsky to be his wingman. He also talked to his wife, Lauren, about the program and signed her up as a second wingman.

In December Mrs. Wage and Captain Orlowsky teamed up and took care of their wingman. Mrs. Wage wanted to help her husband relax by taking a long weekend. She asked Captain Orlowsky to help her get a day of leave approved without Mr. Wage's knowledge.

So, Captain Orlowsky talked to me and I approved a day of leave. Then he cleared Mr. Wage's calendar and Mrs. Wage surprised him with a weekend away in the Netherlands.

The second wingman I want to recognize is Master Sgt. Guy Wells, 469th ABG Communications Flight. Sergeant Wells was asked to be the wingman of another master sergeant in the group.

During his wingman's leave Sergeant Wells offered to watch his house and take care of his cars. He also took his wingman and



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

(Left to right) Col. Brad Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, presents Wingman coins to Capt. Matt Orlowsky, 469th ABG Services Flight and Master Sgt. Guy Wells, 469th ABG Communications Flight at a Team Rhein-Main meeting.

family to the airport and helped them with their luggage. When his wingman returned from leave Sergeant Wells provided some essentials in the refrigerator since the commissary was closed.

Finally, during another temporary duty trip Sergeant Wells assumed several additional duties for his wingman, all without being asked to help.

These wingmen exemplify the purpose of "Combat Wingman" and are just two examples of how we can implement this program in our daily lives. I highly encourage all of us to look for ways to help each other and become true wingmen. It's time to check in!

Committment key to closure

It's simply amazing to comprehend everything that has and continues to be accomplished by Team Rhein-Main in both our professional and personal lives as we sustain our base and community through ever changing times.

Not surprisingly, dedication and commitment have always been hallmarks of our military way of life – driving us to stay on the right course. According to Webster's dictionary, commitment is defined as "a pledge or promise to do something" and "dedication to a long-term course of action; engagement; involvement."

Having participated with many base personnel in this past week's townhall meeting, I feel we collectively demonstrated our community's commitment to the mission, our personnel's quality of life and well-being and to the base's final closure.

Though base closure has been in planning for several years, we've truly entered the execution phase of this long-term effort in this final year of Rhein-Main's physical existence. This year will be one of daily change and transition as we balance on-going contingency mission requirements with satisfying the daily base closure needs.

To ensure success we must continue to commit ourselves to see this process through via communication, coordination and caring at every level –

right to the very end.

Open, honest communication among organizations as well as within families is key to moving forward, squelching rumors and reducing perceived "fear of the unknown."

Each organization has their own departure/transition plan that's been briefed to their respective personnel.

Military and civilian members need to remember to share this information with their families so they can be included in the process and see the "big picture."



**By Maj.
Shawn Moore**
469th Air Base
Civil Engineer
Flight chief

The base public affairs office continues to update the base closure question and answer booklet as well as publish the "Closure Corner" in each edition of *The Gateway*. They will soon be incorporating the latest information exchanged during last week's townhall as well as following up to answer issues that were raised.

Creative solutions have been coordinated

and implemented to remain proactive in meeting requirements via on-base and off-base resources as our facilities close and personnel resources drawdown.

For example, to accommodate our housing residents when our base housing closes by Oct. 14, numerous off-base hotels have been researched in developing a hotel selection matrix to aid personnel and their families in

———— See *Committment*, Page 5

The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.

The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.

If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.

Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.

The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf. If you have any questions, call Public Affairs.



Col. Bradley Denison
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

330-7779

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the Gateway

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*The deadline for the Feb. 11
edition of the Gateway is
4 p.m. Feb. 3.*

Warriors of the Week



Staff Sgt. Andrew Hallead

Unit: 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight

Time in Air Force: 7 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 1.5 years

Duty Title: Delta Flight, flight chief

Hometown: Manistee, Mich.

Hobbies: Sports and weightlifting

What has been your best Air Force experience?

Having the opportunity to travel throughout Europe and see what other countries have to offer.

469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight



Airman 1st Class Rashad Robinson

Unit: 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight

Time in the Air Force: 2 years

Time at Rhein-Main: 7 months

Duty Title: Patrolman

Hometown: Jacksonville, Texas

Hobbies: Weightlifting and hanging out with friends.

What has been your best Air Force experience?

The opportunity to travel around the world.

COMMITTMENT, from Page 4

selecting the best hotel to meet their specific transition needs. This matrix resulted from a partnership among numerous base organizations stepping outside their functional/organizational boundaries to best support our people.

The family child care provider program also offers another creative and flexible opportunity for our residents to sustain critical child care needs for the community.

Though not brought up at the townhall, a community-wide "garage sale" is being coordinated to help residents lighten their baggage before moving and possibly aid other service members.

Finally, caring is an integral part of our commitment – for without it, honor and compassion cannot be found.

The manpower closure team has worked directly with the U.S. Air Forces in Europe personnel office to provide earliest possible assignment

selection and notification so that members and their families can plan and act on their futures. Also, a carefully orchestrated medical support plan has been developed utilizing assigned personnel as well as other military and civilian institutions to ensure medical coverage is available for all personnel through December.

Every decision we make needs to consider the impact on supporting the mission, our families and being able to deliver with honor the final chapter of Rhein-Main's airlift legacy. We can't accomplish this unless we're committed to our personnel and families both in the present and in the future. In the words of Henry David Thoreau "things do not change, we do"; therefore, we all must remain engaged and involved seeking out opportunities to share information to ensure our people drive this process through to completion with dignity and honor.

SECAF retires

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — Airmen, along with servicemembers from more than 14 nations, bid farewell to the 20th Secretary of the Air Force here Jan. 18.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz presented Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche the Department of Defense award for distinguished public service upon his retirement. His wife, Diane, was recognized with the exceptional civilian service award.

The secretary was appointed in 2001 and has been responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training, equipping, and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 Airmen on active duty, 180,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen, 160,000 civilians and their families.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

National Children's Dental Health Month

Helping smiles last a lifetime

By Senior Airman Latasha Lee

469th Air Base Group Dental Clinic

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and the Rhein-Main Dental Clinic staff would like to take this time to remind parents that they can help their children's smiles last a lifetime.

A balanced diet, limited snacks, daily brushing and flossing and regular dental checkups are the key to a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

Following are some of the most commonly asked questions by parents concerning children's dental health:

■ *When should my child start brushing?* A child's first teeth should be cleaned by rubbing them gently with a damp cloth. When the first molars come in (somewhere around 10 months) parents should brush them regularly using a soft-bristled brush and water. Move the brush back and forth using short strokes, making sure to brush the front, back and chewing surface of each tooth.

■ *How can I help my older child brush?* Parents should do the actual brushing of children's teeth until they can handle a toothbrush. This usually occurs at around 5 or 6, and then parent's roles are to make sure that their child is doing a good job. An example of this would be to let the child brush first and when they're done come behind them and brush thoroughly

until they're able to handle it themselves. Again, use a soft-bristled toothbrush and a pea-sized dab of fluoride toothpaste.

■ *When should my child first see a dentist?* The American Dental Association recommends taking children to the dentist before their first birthday. This gives the dentist an opportunity to spot the beginnings of tooth decay and teach parents how to care for their child's teeth. But, if parents regularly brush and floss their children's teeth and don't see any signs of trouble – waiting a couple of years probably won't do any harm.

■ *What is fluoride and how does it help?* Fluoride is a mineral that occurs in all natural water sources – even the oceans. Fluoride ions come from the element fluorine. Fluorine, the 13th most abundant element in the earth's crust, is never encountered in its free state in nature. It exists only in combination with other elements as a fluoride compound.

Fluoride is effective in preventing and reversing the early signs of dental cavities already present in the mouth – making them more decay-resistant. Research has shown that fluoride reduces cavities in both children and adults. Unfortunately, many people continue to be misinformed about fluoride and fluoridation. Fluoride is like any other nutrient – it is safe and effective when used appropriately.

For more information, call the dental clinic at DSN 330-4291 or civilian 069-699-4291.

"Keep your smile clean!"

WINGMAN, from Page 1

the lowest ranking Airman all the way to the top. We all need someone looking out for us."

Airmen, civilian workers and family members throughout Europe have committed to each other, and many are now carrying the Combat Wingman card.

"We built a Wingman card that's being used throughout the command," said Capt. Rita Perez from USAFE Commander's Action Group, who helped launch Combat Wingman.

"We estimate over 21,000 members have formally become part of the Combat Wingman team by filling out a card."

Chief Coleman credits the Wingman standdown day Nov. 8 with really bringing the Wingman program into focus.



"The chance to take a day to step back and listen to one another, value interpersonal relationships, and identify members of the larger team by name — that was big. I think it really helped us come together even more as a force," Chief Coleman said.

Future events will reinforce Combat Wingman.

"The wings are all actively looking for ways to make the program more user-friendly so it's not a mechanical or must-do kind of thing," Chief Coleman added.

"Wingman Wednesdays" are now occurring at base facilities throughout USAFE. These involve special discounts on fun activities and non-alcoholic beverages during set periods for those possessing Wingman cards and

accompanied by their Wingmen. "This incentive program began at RAF Mildenhall but is quickly being adopted by other bases," Captain Perez said.

Increased participation in Combat Wingman will occur naturally as new folks join the USAFE Team. "We need to continue to educate those members who are in-processing our bases about the program and its benefits" Chief Coleman said. "The next step is to make sure we have a system in place that maintains Combat Wingman's current momentum especially as we approach our high personnel turnover season."

General Foglesong agreed, adding "As we bring in new people, we're also looking for new ideas for the program that we can share with other bases and ultimately export to other commands. 'Checking six' and caring for our teammates truly is a never-ending process."

Taking care of 'special' business

UVCC makes transitions smooth for DVs at Rhein-Main

By Airman 1st Class Eric Donner
Public Affairs

Not a day goes by that Rhein-Main residents don't see numerous commercial and military aircraft here, transporting troops and cargo all over the world.

One unknown area that isn't as visible to the public is the U.S. Army, Europe Visitor Coordination Center (UVCC).

The mission of the UVCC is to provide support for all general officer distinguished visitors, or the civilian equivalent, which transit Rhein-Main Air Base or the Frankfurt International Airport.

The organization was originally established in Zeppelinhof in 1984. After the Rhein-Main draw down in 1995 they moved to Bldg. 27, where it's currently located.

What really makes the UVCC special is its uniqueness to Europe, and the entire military. There is no other organization like it in the DoD.

Active duty Army members on a three-year, special-duty assignment comprise the staff of the UVCC. Members of the staff are Oscar Mendez, Sgt. Jason Lottier, Sgt. Manuel Escriche, Sgt. Cully Parr, and Spc. Martin Wilbur.

"The E-5's or E-4's are hand picked through a screening for compatibility," said Oscar Mendez, Director of the UVCC.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

Oscar Mendez, director of the U.S. Army, Europe Visitor Coordination Center, (right) visits with Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third United States Army commander, Jan. 19 in the UVCC lounge.

The enlisted members who work with the dignitaries do a job that is usually done by a field grade officer, said Mr. Mendez.

The UVCC provides more than just a place for visitors to relax while waiting for their plane to be refueled or a commercial flight. They also coordinate lodging if needed for an overnight stay and transportation to various locations.

The members of the UVCC team have also taken DVs shopping at the Base Exchange for clothes when their luggage was lost.

There are also clear benefits for the guests at the UVCC. For example, the staff will meet the DV at the arrival gate in the Frankfurt Airport and escort them until they are back on the plane continuing with their flight.

Also, after a long trip to get here, the UVCC offers a place to freshen up with all the toiletries for both male and female visitors.

Because the UVCC caters to dignitaries from all countries, it is a great chance for the staff to make connections with high ranking individuals, said Mr. Mendez.

"The best part of the job is meeting everyone from presidents to actors and athletes," said Sergeant Parr.

Although the soldiers may have traded in their Army greens for civilian clothes, they aren't soft. They still must maintain their military appearance and keep their training up to date. This includes firearm qualification, physical training and job qualifications.



Photo by 1st Lt. Uriah Orland

(Left to right) Army Sgts. Jason Lottier and Manuel Escriche talk with Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz during a stopover at Rhein-Main. Mr. Wolfowitz visited the UVCC while flying from Sri Lanka to the United States. He spent about two hours with the staff while his plane was refueled.

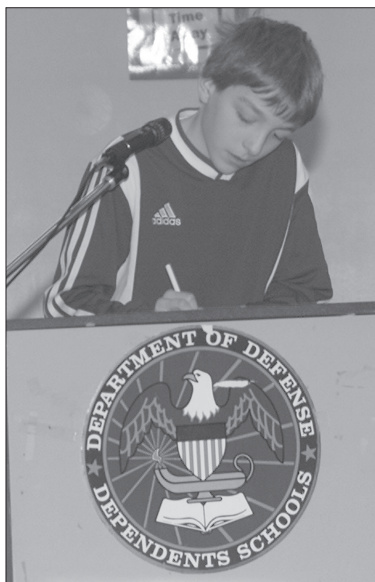
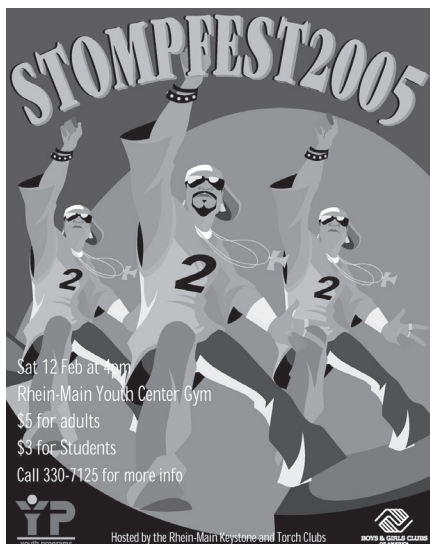


Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g b-e-e

Andrew Kitterman, a 6th grader at Halvorsen Elementary School, takes his time to write out the winning word "trilogy" during the Halvorsen-Tunner American School Spelling Bee Jan. 13. Amanda Long, a 5th grader finished second. Andrew will compete in the DoDD's European Spelling Bee in Kaiserslautern, Germany, March 19.



Around Rhein-Main

Award winners

Congratulations to members of the 469th Air Base Group who recently captured annual awards in the 2004 435th Air Base Wing Communications and Information Award Competition.

In the NCO category (3A) – **Tech. Sgt. Eric Cone**, 469th ABG Commander's Support Staff;

In the Senior NCO category (3A and 3C) – **Master Sgt. Monica Adams**, 469th ABG CSS and **Master Sgt. Guy Wells**, 469th ABG Communications Flight;

In the Air Force Small Postal Operations category – **Rhein-Main Postal Operations**.

Quarterly award

Congratulations to **Capt. Jeffrey Adams**, 469th ABG Security Forces Flight, selected as the 435th ABW Company Grade Officer of the Quarter for the 2004 fourth quarter.

AMC awards

Congratulations to the following members of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron who recently won awards:

721st Air Mobility Operations Group FGO of the Year – **Maj. Russell Custer**.

721st AMOG Quality Assurance Senior NCO of the Year – **Master Sgt. Timothy Anderson**.

721st AMOG Maintenance Analyst of the Year – **Tech. Sgt. John Roberts**.

Air Force Communications-Computer Systems Outstanding NCO (Expeditionary Mobility Task Force level) – **Staff Sgt. Gillie Zamora**.

Air Mobility Command Center of the Year (EMTF level) – **726th AMS/AMCC**.

Wingman promotions

Members of U.S. Air Forces in Europe can present their wingman and wingman card each Wednesday at the Rocket Sports Lounge and when they purchase a lunch special at regular price they get the second lunch at half price.

A wingman and wingman card presented at the Rocket Bowling Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays earns bowling for \$1 each game including shoes.

Base-wide yard sale

Get your junk and treasure together for the Rhein-Main Community Spouses Club base-wide yard sale set for April 30 – rain or shine. The club is also planning to set up a car sale lot for anyone who wants to get rid of their "hoopty."

Unit tax advisors

Team Rhein-Main members who have tax related questions or would like to make an appointment to have their personal taxes prepared should contact their unit tax advisor. For questions about the tax program, call 330-7275 or 069-699-7275.

UTAs include:

469th Air Base Group

Staff Sgt. Tim Hall

James Greig

Staff Sgt. Tracie Lawrence

Airman 1st Class Samuel Sells

Staff Sgt. Sonia Mercado

Staff Sgt. Quincy Martin

726th Air Mobility Squadron

Angela Clementson

Master Sgt. Ricky Carns

Staff Sgt. Melvin Fogle

64th Replacement Company

1st Lt. Catherine Booth-Calero

Det. 1, 2nd Air Postal Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Long

Staff Sgt. William Keys III

Senior Airman Timothy Risnes

Det. 3 401st AEW

Master Sgt. Suzanne Wolf-Sedberry



Closure Corner

This section is devoted to giving the Rhein-Main Community the most up-to-date information concerning base closure issues. All dates presented in this section are subject to change based on manpower figures, personnel assignment information and ongoing U.S. Air Forces in Europe coordination.

Following is information disseminated at the latest Rhein-Main Closure Town Hall Meeting Jan. 20 at the base theater:

Q: Are there any legal considerations with advance travel of dependents?

A: Yes.

Dependents who advance travel within Germany:

- Are eligible for all privileges, i.e., base exchange, commissary.

- Housing eligibility is subject to Air Force instructions and will be worked on an individual basis with the gaining unit.

- Placement of children within DoDDs schools is on a space-available basis.

Dependents who advance travel to overseas locations other than Germany:

- Little or no support for dependents based on Status of Forces Agreements

Q: When is the last day Gateway Gardens housing will be open?

A: All stairwells will be vacant no later than Oct. 14. Residents PCSing in October will be allowed to stay no later than Oct. 14. Then they will stay in off-base hotels until their departure dates. Personnel PCSing in November and December will move into off-base lodging no later than Oct. 14.

Q: When do we have to turn in government furnishings?

A: Currently, all government furnishings must be turned in by Oct. 30.

Q: What are the rules for final inspections of housing units?

A: Cleanliness standards must be met during final inspections. No abuse or defacement will be tolerated. Repainting of interior walls will not be required.

Q: What are my choices for off-base lodging?

A: The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight is creating a list of available lodging choices in the local area. The flight is researching amenities available so members can choose the best option for their family. Officials are also engaged with surrounding military communities for temporary living facilities partnerships.

Q: When will the child development center close?

A: The CDC will close Aug. 31. Officials are currently building a working relationship with surrounding military communities to care for children after Aug. 31.

Q: When do Services Flight facilities close?

A: Following is a list of current closure projection dates:

Rocket Bowling Center – April 29

Youth center – June 30

Library – June 30

Cargo Point Restaurant – June 30

Fitness center – Aug. 31

Child development center – Aug. 31

Liberty Cafe – Sept. 30

Commissary – Sept. 30

Shoppette & theater – Oct. 1

Base exchange food court – Oct. 1

Greek Imbiss – Oct. 1

Subway – Oct. 1

Passenger terminal snack bar – Oct. 1

Anthony's Pizza (Gateway) – Oct. 1

Community Bank – Oct. 31

Andrew's FCU – Oct. 31

Q: When does service at the base clinic end?

A: The main clinic building off base closes June 30. The clinic will reopen July 5 with limited capabilities at an alternate facility, Bldg. 340, on main base. The goal of the clinic will then be to provide minor acute care, child wellness exams and to transition families PCSing. The clinic will have very limited lab services and pharmacy medicines. The staff will provide acute care services for minor illnesses and pediatric wellness exams.

Q: Is there a deadline for clearance letters for an overseas tour?

A: Yes. If military members are PCSing to another overseas location with dependents or PCSing stateside or overseas with a special need family member, they must make a clearance appointment prior to June 30 if they are PCSing in 2005. Members can call the life skills office at 330-4211 for more information or to make an appointment.

DUI/DWI Tracker

Days without DUIs (As of Tuesday)

469th Air Base Group

86 days

726th Air Mobility Squadron

46 days

64th Replacement Company

254 days

Tenant Units

38 days

Others

181 days

The 469th ABG Top IV provides a

fund at the main gate for permanent party personnel who take a taxi back to the base instead of driving while intoxicated.

The money used must be reimbursed the next duty day.





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Summers

Pedal power

Cyclers take part in a spin class during the base's fitness fest Saturday at the fitness center. Exercise enthusiasts took part in four different aerobic disciplines, including spin, step, core and kick boxing for a total of three hours. The base clinic staff provided a Wingman Wellness health display and the fitness center staff provided fitness information provided by the health and wellness center at Ramstein.

Sports briefs

Intramural results

At press time the 469th Air Base Group and 469th ABG Security Forces Flight were set to battle for the final intramural basketball crown in the history of Rhein-Main.

The 469th ABG, the regular season champs with a 10-0 record, made it to the finale with a 47-34 win over the 469th ABG Civil Engineer Flight and a 47-45 double-overtime victory over the Cops.

The Cops came into the championship with a 2-1 playoff record. The team's record included two wins over the 726th Air Mobility Squadron 31-26 and 47-35.

Following is a recap of the tournament action:

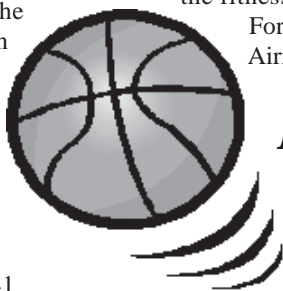
- Game 1 –
726th AMS vs. Con-
sulate - 31-28
- Game 2 –
CE vs. 64th RC - 48-41
- Game 3 –
SF vs. 726th AMS - 31-26
- Game 4 –
469th ABG vs. CE - 47-34
- Game 5 –
726th AMS vs. 64th RC - 43-23

- Game 6 –
CE vs. Consulate - 36-24
- Game 7 –
469th ABG vs. SF - 47-45 (2OT)
- Game 8 –
726th AMS vs. CE - 33-31
- Game 9 –
SFS vs. 726th AMS - 47-35
- Game 10 –
469th ABG vs. SFS

Volleyball anyone?

Letters of intent for the upcoming intramural volleyball season are due to the fitness center staff by Tuesday. Stop by the fitness center to pick up a form.

For more information, call Senior Airman Bianca Rios.



High school hoops

The Wiesbaden Warriors defeated the International School of Brussels 52-45 Saturday in boys high school basketball.

Chris Kitterman, who scored nine points, hit back-to-back 3-pointers at the end of the third quarter to give Wiesbaden a lead they never relinquished.



Who killed the fitness instructor?

The base fitness center, in conjunction with U.S. Air Forces In Europe Services and Project Cheer, is sponsoring a fitness game of Clue.

Fitness Clue continues throughout January and game pieces and rules are available at the fitness center counter.

Based on the classic board game, participants attempt to solve a fictitious crime. By performing cardiovascular exercise logged into the FitLinxx system, participants traverse across the fitness center game board guessing the suspect, room and weapon used on the victim of foul play.

Participating bases choose the suspect, room and weapon involved in the crime.

Grand prize is \$100. The staff will also give out FitLinxx hats and Air Force Monopoly games while supplies last.

Call 330-7151 for more details.

Lunch and learn

Due to popular demand the family support center sponsors a German Lunch and Learn Class from noon to 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Our House, Bldg. 627 B-2 in Gateway Gardens.

Bring a lunch and learn how to survive on the economy.

Call 330-7992 for more information.

Benefits brief

The FSC sponsors a Veterans Administration briefing from 8 - 10 a.m. Feb. 4 in the FSC classroom.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

WIC class

This month's Women, Infants and Children class theme is "Five a Day." Mothers can learn helpful tips on how to increase a child's fruit and vegetable intake. Children are welcome.

The class is in the WIC office, Bldg. 627 B-4.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

Swap social

The FSC sponsors a Swap Social from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Feb. 11 for anyone who wants to get rid of unwanted gadgets and collectibles.

Call the FSC at 330-7992 to reserve

a space or just stop by to take a look. Childcare is available to those who book a space.

Baden Baden trip

The FSC sponsors a free trip Feb. 12 to Baden Baden, a city famous for its thermal baths and casino.

The trip is free, but the FSC requires a 20 euro refundable deposit to reserve a seat. Seating is limited and based on a first come, first serve basis.

The bus leaves the parking lot of Bldg. 347 at 8 a.m. and the shoppette at 8:15 a.m. and returns at approximately 7 p.m.

College scholarships

The Rhein-Main Community Spouses Club will award scholarships to high school seniors who have a sponsor assigned to Rhein-Main.

Applications are available at H.H. Arnold High School, the family support center and the library. Applications are due no later than Feb. 27.

For more information, call Carita Spencer.

Education services

CLEP general exams and CLEP/DANTES subject exams will be available in the base testing center until March 31.

SAT and ACT exams can be scheduled through March 31.

Call 330-7484 or visit the Rhein-Main Combat Education Center on the second floor of Bldg. 347.

Soul food dinner

The Keystone Club sponsors a Soul food dinner from 6 - 8 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Rhein-Main Youth Center Gym.

All dinners must be pre-ordered and will be takeout only.

Dinners cost \$5 each and will consist of a choice of meat (fried chicken or barbecue ribs) and four side items - macaroni and cheese, potato salad, collard greens and cornbread.

Drinks and desserts include lemonade or sweet tea and pecan pie, sweet potato pie or pound cake.

Movies at Rhein-Main

Tonight - "Alexander," (R), 7 p.m.

Saturday - "The Grudge," (PG-13), 5 p.m. and "Meet the Fockers," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," (R), 7 p.m.

Wednesday - "Coach Carter," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Feb. 4. - "Woman Thou Art Loosed," (R), 7 p.m.

Feb. 5 - "Spongebob Squarepants Movie," (PG), 5 p.m., and "Phantom of the Opera," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 6 - "Ladder 49," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Feb. 9 - "Are We There Yet?," (PG), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp

For sale

Limited Edition "Berlin Airlift" Hummel figurine. Mint cond. 225 euro or \$325. Call 069-6500-6670 after 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now through Feb. 11 at the youth center. All proceeds go towards a Keystone Club trip.

For more information, call Travis McKinney.

Manage your move

The FSC will conduct "Manage Your Move," sessions Feb. 22 and Feb. 24. Participants can receive outprocessing tips and free moving management tools. Orders are not needed for either session.

Sessions are set for 12:15 - 2:15 p.m. Feb. 22 at Our House and 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Feb. 24 at the FSC in Bldg. 347.

Holiday hours

The FSC will be closed Feb. 21 in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

Chapel schedule

The following worship opportunities are offered by the Rhein-Main Chapel:

■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass - 9 a.m. every Sunday.

Chapel fellowship - 10 a.m.

CCD - 10:30 a.m.

■ Protestant worship:

Sunday School - 9 a.m.

Chapel fellowship - 10 a.m.

Worship and Kids Own Church take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.





Courtesy photos

Ugly masks worn during Fasching are intended to drive out the evil spirits of winter and to encourage the coming of spring and good crops. The traditional Fasching music is known as "Guggenmusik," a rhythmic music played by ear with drums, brass instruments and anything else that makes noise.

Go away old man winter



Day Trippin'

By 1st Lt. Uriah Orland
Public Affairs

Throughout the world, different cultures celebrate the driving out of winter and the beginning of Lent or the beginning of the fast. In the United States, cities celebrate Mardi Gras. Here in Germany, they celebrate Fasching or Karneval.

The Fasching season begins at 11:11 a.m. Nov. 11 and culminates with a final celebration the day before Ash Wednesday, also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. It's also called Fastnacht or Fassenacht in Mainz.

The celebration goes back to pagan times, and was a way of driving out the evil spirits of winter and encouraging the coming of spring and good crops. Ugly masks worn for this purpose are still worn in carnival festivals in southern Germany. Karneval can be traced back to pagan Roman festivals, which may explain why Köln and Mainz, two ancient cities with Roman history, have such big carnivals.

In the Middle Ages, Karneval gave the people a break from the tightly

structured class system, as they were able to hide their social background behind imaginative masks and costumes. Poor people were able to mix with all other levels of society and celebrate with them. In those days people would dress up as knights, damsels and even priests, as a way of making fun of them.

Traditions vary, but two things are always present: noise and masks. The level of noise has reached new heights with the "Guggenmusik," which has been spreading from Basel to all parts of German-speaking Europe.

"Guggenmusik" is very rhythmic, played by ear and from the heart, performed by drums, brass instruments, and anything else that makes noise. A few instruments carry the melody, the rest provide a continuous beat.

Fastnacht societies usually prescribe costumes for the group. However, in areas where Karneval and Fasching are celebrated the choice of costume is up to the individual.

Celebrations along the Rhein, from the Baseler Fastnacht down to Mainz, Köln and Düsseldorf, are especially

If you go...



To get to Mainz take A-3 towards Wiesbaden. Exit onto A-66 in the direction of Wiesbaden and then take 455 towards Mainz-Kastel. To

avoid congestion in downtown Mainz, drivers can park at Mainz-Kastel and walk across the river bridge to downtown. To reach Köln, take A-3 towards Köln and follow the signs for Stadtmitte. The best place to view the parades is near the Dom in each city.



The Fasching parades in Mainz and Köln begin at 11:11 a.m. Feb. 7 and the celebrations run throughout the day.



The parades are free.



For more information log onto www.koeln.de/tourismus/karneval or www.mainz.de/freizeit/fastnacht/index.htm.

intense. Big pageants with costumed marchers, masked dancers and floats are especially colorful in the cities of Köln and Mainz, where it is almost a civic duty to join the fun. The celebrating continues until midnight when the merrymaking and foolishness comes to a sudden halt.